

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. Applicant cancels claims 1 and 15-20 and amends claims 2, 3 and 10-14 herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informal matters. Applicant amends the specification according to the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 9 stands objected to for an informal matter. Applicant amends Claim 9 according to the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bitting (U.S. Pat. No. 4,491,772). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding its traverse, Applicant cancels claim 1 rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 10-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosaya (U.S. Pat. No. 4,758,751). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding its traverse, Applicant cancels claims 1 and 15-20, and

amends claims 3-6 and 10-14 to depend from claim 2. Accordingly, this rejection should be moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 2 and 7-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant amends claim 2 to include the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, claim 2 and all remaining dependent claims should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 14, 2008

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